



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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News Release

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SENDS 16,627 WEAPONS TO THE FURNACE IN THE 16TH ANNUAL "PROJECT ISAIAH"

On Tuesday, July 28, 2009, Commander Thomas Laing, Chief of Staff to Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, supervised the destruction of over 18 tons of confiscated weapons at the metal melting facilities of TAMCO Steel, Inc., in Rancho Cucamonga. California law mandates the destruction of these weapons in the month of July each year.

Commander Laing attributed the hard work of the men and women in law enforcement throughout Los Angeles County and the 21 "Gifts for Guns" events where citizens voluntarily surrendered 3,853 guns for the large number of weapons to be destroyed this year. The amount of weapons became so great this year that the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works was asked and graciously consented to supply dump trucks large enough to safely transport this mass of metal.

Along with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, 16 law enforcement agencies contributed confiscated weapons to this program. These agencies included the Hawthorne, Long Beach, South Gate, San Marino, Beverly Hills, Montebello, Glendora, West Covina, El Monte, South Pasadena, Downey, Torrance, Pasadena, Azusa, La Verne, and Inglewood Police Departments.

TAMCO Steel, Inc., refers to its weapons' recycling program as "Isaiah Project" from the Biblical passage in the Book of Isaiah (Isaiah 2:4) that calls for swords to be beaten into plowshares as a way of bringing peace. Commander Laing stated, "These implements of human destruction will be transformed into elements of construction."

Joining the Sheriff's Department in support of the project was TAMCO Vice President Jim Crompton, Deputy Secretary for Law Enforcement and Counsel Matthew Bogoshian, and Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Donald Kurth, M.D.

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July 28, 2009